

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCA-01 L-03 SCS-03 CPR-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 AID-05 /045 W

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O 101005Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7437

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2876

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC LA US

SUBJ: LPDR NOTE ASKING FOR LIST OF AMERICANS REGISTERED WITH  
CONSULAR SECTION

REF: STATE 299837 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS RAISED PARA 2 REFTEL, WE HAVE CONTACTED AUSTRALIAN, BRITISH, FRENCH, JAPANESE, WEST GERMAN EMBASSIES, ALL OF WHICH RECEIVED NOTES ASKING FOR LISTS OF THEIR NATIONALS REGISTERED WITH THEIR CONSULAR SECTIONS. WE ALSO CONTACTED FILIPINO AND THAI EMBASSIES, NEITHER OF WHICH HAD RECEIVED SUCH NOTES.

2. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THAT GOA REGULATIONS PRECLUDED EMBASSY FURNISHING INFORMATION REQUESTED AND HE PLANS SEND NOTE TO THIS EFFECT TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN NEXT WEEK OR TWO. BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID HIS REGULATIONS SIMILARLY PRECLUDED PROVISION OF SUCH INFORMATION BUT BRITISH WERE WAITING TO SEE WHAT OTHERS WOULD DO BEFORE SENDING THEIR RESPONSE. FRENCH CHARGE TOLD ME HE AWAITING RETURN OF AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 12 AFTER WHICH HE EXPECTS REPORT TO PARIS FOR INSTRUCTIONS, BUT  
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SAID HE IS OPPOSED TO PROVIDING LIST OF ABOUT 750

FRENCH CITIZENS, MOSTLY INDOCHINESE, TO LPDR. JAPANESE EMBOFF TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS EMBASSY WOULD SEND RESPONSE WITH LIST OF 136 PERSONS. GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HE WILL PROBABLY SKIRT ISSUE BY STATING THAT EMBASSY NOT AWARE OF HOW MANY NON-OFFICIAL GERMANS THERE WERE IN LPDR. IN FACT, HE SAYS, ONLY ONE HE KNOWS ABOUT REGISTERED WITH FRG EMBASSY BANGKOK ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO. GERMAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH OTHER NON- COMMUNIST EMBASSIES TO SEE IF THERE WERE SOME GROUNDS FOR COMMON NEGATIVE RESPONSE OR AT LEAST FOR SIMILAR RESPONSES BY MORE THAN ONE EMBASSY.

3. WE BELIEVE PURPOSE BEHIND MFA REQUEST IS IN FIRST INSTANCE TO GET FOREIGN EMBASSIES TO DO WORK OF LPDR AGENCIES IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ON WHAT FOREIGNERS THERE ARE IN COUNTRY. BEYOND THAT, IF LPDR GETS EMBASSY LISTS OF PRIVATE FOREIGNERS, IT MAY USE IT AS CHECKLIST TO DETERMINE WHO HAS TO LEAVE AND WHO CAN REMAIN. IT MAY WELL HOLD EMBASSIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE LISTED WHO REMAIN. AUSTRALIAN CONSULAR OFFICER TOLD EMBOFFS THAT LPDR OFFICIAL HAD INFORMED AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST EVERINGHAM THAT BEFORE HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO EXTEND HIS STAY HE WOULD NEED A LETTER OF GUARANTEE FROM HIS EMBASSY OR "ASSOCIATION" STATING THAT IT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS CONDUCT IN COUNTRY AND WOULD PAY FOR HIS REPATRIATION IF NECESSARY. AUSTRALIAN CONSULAR OFFICER ADDED THAT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE NO SUCH GUARANTEE.

4. LPDR MAY ALSO DECIDE THAT PERSONS NOT ON LISTS DO NOT COME UNDER PROTECTION OF THEIR CONSULAR OFFICIALS AND MAY DECIDE TO ARREST THEM AND/OR ORDER THEM TO LEAVE.

5. REGARDING LIKELY LAO REACTION TO NEGATIVE REPLY, IN THE FIRST PLACE, LAO HAVE NOT PRESSED US TO REPLY URGENTLY TO THEIR NOTE, AS THEY DID TWICE IN CASE OF NOTE ASKING FOR LIST OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO ATTEND SEMINAR (VIENTIANE 2857 NOTAL). THUS, I RECOMMEND THAT WE WAIT UNTIL AFTER DEC 12 RETURN OF MR. CORCORAN BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION ON OUR REPLY.

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6. WHILE I DEFER TO CORCORAN'S VIEW, OUR PRESENT JUDGMENT IS THAT, IF AT LEAST SOME OTHER EMBASSIES BESIDES OURS SEND NEGATIVE REPLIES, THE LAO WILL SIMPLY BACK DOWN. AS MATTERS NOW STAND, WE CONSIDER THIS TO BE MOST PROBABLE OUTCOME BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO CHECK AS TO WHETHER OTHER EMBASSIES DO IN FACT REPLY NEGATIVELY OR PLAN TO DO SO.

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